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Other matters

Proposed revisions to subprogramme 4, Sustainable development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Note by the Secretariat**

1. The preparations, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

2. The proposals for revisions to the narrative of subprogramme 4, Sustainable development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, contained in annex I to the present note, are submitted for consideration by the Commission on Sustainable Development in accordance with the provisions of regulation 4.13, rule 104.6 and rule 104.8 of the Regulations and Rules given below.

> "Regulation 4.13: The medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes; revisions to the plan shall be considered by the General Assembly one year before the submission of the proposed programme budget providing for implementation of the changes. The proposed revisions shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and international conferences since the adoption of the plan.
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> "Rule 104.6: The Secretary-General shall take appropriate measures to submit proposals to the sectoral, functional and regional bodies to enable them to review the relevant portions of the medium-term plan or its revisions with a

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** The submission of the present note was delayed in order to allow full consultation between the departments concerned.

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view to facilitating their consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the General Assembly.

"Rule 104.8: (a) Revisions to the medium-term plan are required, inter alia:

"(i) When intergovernmental mandates adopted after the adoption of the plan call for new or substantially modified programmes and subprogrammes or any other revisions that should be properly identified;

"(ii) When the programme mandates in the opinion of the Secretary-General have become obsolete;

"(iii) When the Secretary-General deems it necessary to propose new activities at the subprogramme level not covered by existing legislative mandates;

"(b) Substantive revisions shall be those that propose a change in the objective(s) or the strategy of the programme or subprogramme."

3. The medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1) was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and revisions pertaining thereto, submitted by the Secretary-General, were adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 57/282 of 20 December 2002. In resolution 57/282, the Assembly noted the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[1] that the Secretary-General submit proposals for revisions to programme 7 of the medium-term plan so as to reflect the review by the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and requested the Secretary-General to submit those proposals, through the Committee at its forty-third session, for consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

4. The revisions to subprogramme 4 (Sustainable development) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 contained in annex I are submitted for the consideration of the Commission pursuant to the above-mentioned request of the General Assembly. These revisions constitute the framework for the draft programme of work to be carried out by the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat during the biennium 2004-2005. The draft programme of work, which is also submitted for the consideration of the Commission at its eleventh session, is contained in the annex to document E/CN.17/2003/5.

5. The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, endorsed the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and, inter alia, decided to adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, and called for profound changes in the work of the United Nations in this regard in subsequent periods. In the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing proposals on the modalities of the future work of the Commission, taking into account the decisions contained in the Plan of Action of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation).[2] Pursuant to this request, the Commission will be reviewing these modalities at its eleventh session.

6. The proposed revisions to subprogramme 4 of programme 7 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 have been made with a view to primarily supporting follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in line with the Commission's responsibilities and

additional mandates emanating from the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Legislative mandates for the subprogramme are contained in annex II. Details of the activities that need to be undertaken will be determined more precisely in the light of the outcome of the review by the Commission of the modalities of its future work.

7. The Commission is invited to comment and make recommendations on the revisions to subprogramme 4 as set out in annex I below. In accordance with established practice, any comments and recommendations by the Commission will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third session (9 June-3 July 2003) when it considers the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The Committee will then decide on the recommendations to be made to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session regarding the follow-up to be undertaken with respect to these comments and recommendations.

8. In the proposed revisions to subprogramme 4, new text to be inserted appears in boldface type and text to be deleted appears in strike-out type.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), para. 108.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Annex I

Proposed revisions to subprogramme 4, Sustainable development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Objective

7.19 The objective of the subprogramme is to ~~seek to ensure~~ **support sustainable development efforts at all levels. ~~the~~ This will include support for an** effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, **the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session,** the ~~outcome of the Global Conference on~~ **Programme of Action for** the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the Assembly to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ~~Small Island Developing States, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session,~~ and the ~~decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of bodies responsible for energy and natural resource~~ **Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration.**

Strategy

7.20 The Division for Sustainable Development is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Promoting effective, **coherent** and coordinated implementation of the sustainable development agenda of the United Nations, **at the national, regional and global levels, taking into account the roles and contributions of various implementation actors and constituencies involved in this process, namely, Governments, international and regional organizations from both within and outside the United Nations system, major groups, partnerships and other stakeholders;**

(b) Providing ~~substantive~~ **effective** support **to the Commission on Sustainable Development, with a view to responding to the enhanced role of the Commission in reviewing progress, identification of gaps and constraints and addressing new challenges and opportunities in the implementation** ~~and bringing new issues within the context~~ of Agenda 21 **and outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, through in-depth analysis and evaluation of trends in implementation; cross-sectoral analysis of sustainability in the economic and natural resources sectors, including better reflection of the gender dimension; analysis of lessons learned, identification of best practices and new challenges; and formulation of recommendations on ways to overcome gaps in and constraints on implementation** ~~to the attention of the Commission on~~

~~Sustainable Development for its consideration, including assessment of critical areas of sustainability~~;

(c) Supporting implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in areas such as: elaboration and implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable ~~Following up on the decisions taken regarding the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, paying due attention to matters related to providing adequate and predictable new and additional financial resources to developing countries, supporting the efforts of countries with economies in transition, changing~~ production and consumption patterns ~~and mechanisms for the transfer of technology to those countries, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed in Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, addressing poverty in the context of sustainable development, and ensuring the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 53/7 in which it endorsed the World Solar Programme, 1996-2005, and 54/215, in which it called for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme, as a part of the overall new and renewable sources of energy agenda, is fully integrated and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development~~; **strengthening of the knowledge base of sustainable development; technology transfer; making more effective use of national and regional reports and other information on progress in the implementation of sustainable development; promoting further work on indicators to monitor progress towards Summit goals and targets; tracking significant legal developments in the field of sustainable development; and using contemporary methods of data collection and dissemination including broader use of information technologies;**

(d) Strengthening cooperation with major groups and identification of new opportunities for their further engagement, as defined in Agenda 21, in the United Nations work in the area of sustainable development, including implementation of goals, objectives and targets set at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as enhancing contributions from major groups to the sessions and activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(e) Setting up a transparent and credible system for review and monitoring of sustainable development partnerships, involving Governments, international organizations and major groups, and supporting efforts to promote new partnerships while ensuring that these partnerships become one of the means of supporting the implementation of internationally agreed upon sustainable development goals, targets and objectives;

(f) Supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States along with relevant outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and ensuring effective support to the 10-year review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action and respective follow-up;

~~(d)~~(g) Providing advisory services **and devising operational strategies** ~~strategy to Governments, at their request, in preparing national~~ **to promote enhanced capacity of developing countries, countries with economies in transition and regions to develop and implement** sustainable development

strategies and related actions; **enhance sustainable development councils and coordination structures; and develop/strengthen information, monitoring and reporting systems, including indicators of sustainable development; and providing policy advisory and technical cooperation services to national Governments on matters related to sustainable development in the water, natural resources, mining and minerals, energy, transport and infrastructure sectors;**

~~Devising operational strategies to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and energy, , strengthening institutional, human resources and policy-making capacity in the area of natural resources, in particular water resources, and helping to develop and commercialize new and renewable sources of energy, as well as strengthening national institutions for the assessment and management of energy resources natural and related requests~~;

~~(f)(i)~~**(h)** Promoting and supporting North-South **and South-South and regional** ~~international~~ cooperation in the area of sustainable development.

Expected accomplishments

Expected accomplishments would include:

(a) Effective implementation of outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development related to strengthening of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its reorientation to support implementation of sustainable development at all levels, inter alia, through partnerships that support implementation of goals and objectives set at the Summit;

~~(a)~~**(b) Better integration of** ~~Strengthening of coordinated approaches towards implementing the~~ economic, social and environmental ~~aspects~~ **dimensions** of sustainable development **in all activities of sustainable development through strengthened collaboration among international organizations and financial institutions, particularly in** ~~by all actors including the organizations of~~ the United Nations system, through ~~the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, for which the subprogramme provides the secretariat~~ **improved inter-agency cooperation and coordination;**

(c) ~~Effective~~ **Improvement in** monitoring of the implementation of sustainable development goals through the assessment of ~~data~~ **information** collected at the national, regional and international levels~~, taking into account the results of work on indicators of sustainable development~~;

~~(b)~~**(d)** Enhanced ~~dialogue with and~~ involvement of major groups ~~as defined in Agenda 21, including women, youth, indigenous people, business and industry, trade unions, the scientific community, farmers and non-governmental organizations,~~ in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and in sustainable development activities in general, **including the enhanced contribution of major groups to the implementation of Agenda 21, outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and other mandates in the area of sustainable development;**

(e) Enabling the Commission on Sustainable Development to effectively evaluate and facilitate partnerships that promote sustainable development;

~~(d)~~**(f)** Enhanced international **and regional** cooperation, in particular South-South cooperation, in the area of sustainable development, inter alia, through regional and subregional exchanges of experience in the implementation of Agenda 21, as well as through implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States **and outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**;

~~(e)~~**(g)** ~~Effective~~ Enhanced capacity-~~building at the national level~~ **of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with regard to: the formulation of national sustainable development strategies, policies and programmes; the development of information systems and databases, including indicators of sustainable development; energy; water; and mining and minerals;**

(h) Increased public accessibility to and awareness of information about sustainable development and Agenda 21, Commission on Sustainable Development and World Summit on Sustainable Development outcomes leading to understanding and awareness of sustainable development;

(i) Provision of effective support to the 10-year review of progress achieved in implementing the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States approved at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Indicators of achievement

7.22 Indicators of achievement would include:

(a) Satisfaction expressed ~~in~~ **with regard to** the quality of ~~policy~~ **substantive** support provided to **the Commission on Sustainable Development and other United Nations** intergovernmental processes **in the area of sustainable development;**

(b) **(i) Progress in the implementation of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, as reported to the Commission on Sustainable Development; and (ii)** ~~An increase in~~ the number of collaborative arrangements and ~~consultative processes~~ **partnerships in the area of sustainable development** involving **organizations of** the United Nations system; **and** ~~the number of~~ **non-United Nations system organizations** ~~involved in such arrangements~~**;**

~~(f)~~**(c)** ~~An increase in voluntary reporting~~ **Timeliness and completeness of analysis of information on implementation of sustainable development goals and targets provided by Governments** to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

~~(c)~~**(d)** The number of activities carried out by major groups and their overall involvement **in the implementation of sustainable development and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development**;

~~(d) An increase in technical cooperation activities in support of elaboration and formulation with a view to implementation of national strategies for sustainable development in accordance with the goal outlined in paragraph 24 (a) of the~~

~~Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (resolution S-19/2, annex);~~;

(e) An open and transparent mechanism to monitor sustainable development partnerships being established;

(f) The number of exchanges of national, regional and intraregional experiences on sustainable development;

~~(e)~~**(g) Feedback provided by developing countries and countries with economies in transition regarding the** usefulness of the advisory services and/or technical cooperation projects **and capacity-building support** provided and/or implemented under the subprogramme;

(h) (i) Number of Division for Sustainable Development web site hits in which users spent three minutes or more at the web site; and (ii) ability to meet requests for ~~number of~~ public information briefings and presentations that are directly relevant to the work programme ~~and other products~~;

(i) (i) ~~Number of~~ subregional, regional and global meetings/workshops organized; and (ii) number of reports analysing accomplishments in implementing the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Annex II

Legislative mandates for subprogramme 4, Sustainable development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

General Assembly resolutions

47/190 Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

47/191 Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

~~50/126 Water supply and sanitation~~

S-19/2 Programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21

S-22/2 Declaration and state of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

~~54/33 Results of the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of "oceans and seas": international coordination and cooperation~~

~~54/215 World Solar Programme 1996-2005~~

~~54/218 Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly~~

~~54/224 Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States~~

~~54/225 Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development~~

55/2 United Nations Millennium Declaration

56/95 Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

56/200 Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme, 1996-2005

57/253 World Summit on Sustainable Development

57/262 Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

57/270 Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

~~1996/49 Integration of key minerals issues into the implementation of Agenda 21~~

~~1997/53 Consumer protection~~

~~1997/63 Programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002 and future methods of work of the Commission~~

~~1997/65 Establishment of an ad hoc open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests~~

~~1998/46 Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields~~

~~1999/60 Preparation for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on energy issues~~

~~1999/222 Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session and provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission~~

2001/21 Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits